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...AND...

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Agricultural.

SPECIALTIES IN FARMING.

We as a body of farmers are too diffusive in our labor, that is, we are at doing too many things, and spread our energies over too much ground, instead of concentrating our thoughts and our means upon one special line of business, or a particular crop, or some leading branch of farming.

If we go round through our quiet and beautiful rural districts and study the character and inclinations of the farming population, we shall find that, in a vast number of instances, the man, the farmer, wants to own the next farm. There is a hankering for more land, rather than a desire to cultivate the home farm well, and to bring it to the highest degree of productiveness. Perhaps we come naturally by this characteristic, for we know that our fathers were a bold, pushing and adventurous race of men, the choice spirits from all parts of Europe, and we recollect that Walter Scott says of a Scotchman, that the moment he gets his head above water he aims for land. But this, although we regard it as some reason for an unfortunate trait in the New England character, is not exactly the fault to which we refer.

We shall find generally, that the farmer makes his calculations to do a little of everything instead of a great deal.

The cost per acre of cutting the bushes and the brakes, grubbing up the hawthorns and the tangled roots of trees and high blueberry bushes, paring and levelling the surface, sowing on sand and setting out the vines exceeded four hundred dollars. Last year was the third of the experiment and the first crop of any extent, and on about an acre then in bearing, the crop yielded between seven and eight hundred bushels net.

We have another friend who owns a large farm in the town of Franklin. It has cost him, on an average, about five hundred dollars an acre, some of it nearly a thousand dollars an acre to set, because he had everything to contend with. It was an old overgrown swamp almost inaccessible. He now has about twenty acres in full bearing, and when we were there, a few months ago, he pointed to one meadow of about twelve acres and said, "There, I have cleared twenty thousand dollars for me, and want of suitable laws, partly through bad and want of suitable laws, great cruelty has been done to animals in and about this."

"Why don't you take it?"
Take it! why, it pays me the interest on over fifty thousand dollars; and has done for several years. I can't afford to sell it for twenty thousand!"

At the time of our visit, instead of wishing to sell any part of his extensive plantation, he had three or four workmen in the mud and water half up to their knees, extending the area of his vines, at an enormous cost per acre.

There are instances not to recommend every farmer to go and do likewise, that is to run into grapes or cherries or tobacco, but simply to show the importance of saving and taking advantage of the natural capacities of the farm. If it is specially adapted to grapes, you may cultivate them; if it is more particularly adapted to the dairy, make a speciality of that; if you have meadows that offer a prospect of success with cranberries, you will do well to consider whether they wouldn't pay better than any other one thing. But whatever we undertake let us do it thoroughly and well.

PROFESSIONAL GAMBLE.

Our readers have probably noticed in the journals of the day the arrival in this country of Prof. John Ganges of London, a gentleman who has distinguished himself not only for the eminent position in his profession (that of Veterinary Surgeon) which he has attained, being in advance of any man who speaks the English language, but also for his untiring efforts to prevent the spread of contagious diseases among animals.

The government was advised by him of the immense loss suffered by those diseases, and when he had at the end of the year, that both ends will hardly meet; buckle and strap won't come quite together, or, if they do, there will be nothing to spare.

Now, we are not inclined to advocate the cultivation of any crop or other to the exclusion of all others, but we do not mean to absurdly like putting all the eggs into one basket. We would go farther, and say that we would have the farmer raise even a greater variety of miscellaneous crops for the supply of his own family. There is one of the known ones who were afraid that their private business might interfere. The consequence was the loss of three hundred thousand head of cattle and twenty millions of dollars.

His visit to this country is in connection with a supply of animal food at comparatively small cost. It is well known that a large number of cattle in South America and Texas, are slaughtered, the hides and tallow being the only part of the animal from which any revenue is derived. By a process for which he has letters patent, meat is subjected to special activity, no one product of which to rely for the money income of the farm, and so we shall find, at the end of the year, that both ends will hardly meet; buckle and strap won't come quite together, or, if they do, there will be nothing to spare.

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It is the act of incorporation to be throughout the whole of the business. It will start numbering amongst its members many men and women who are well known in other works of philanthropy and humanity. We intend that it shall merit the approbation and aid of every good man and woman in this community. What does it propose to do? It proposes to establish an institution that the State ever did.

It proposes to establish an educational

institution for the benefit of the poor, and to do it in a way that is to be a leading pursuit, and so on. The idea is to study and take advantage of the peculiar capacities of each farm, and of ten farms taken at random, scarcely any two would present the same characteristics.

Some farms are admirably adapted to the raising of fruit. Some have a warm south exposure, with a light warm soil adapted to the grape, where vineyards would return a profitable yield. Some have facilities for the raising of cranberries, and it is a pity not to take advantage of them. Some are remarkably well adapted to the raising of poultry, refined and free from disturbance. Some are specially suited for grass, and the raising of stock would seem to be a leading pursuit, and so on. The idea is to study and take advantage of the peculiar capacities of each farm, and of ten farms taken at random, scarcely any two would present the same characteristics.

Let me show you one or two illustrations.

A friend in Concord has two or three acres of Concord grapes. He raises poultry, and he had 4600 eggs from the first of January last year to the last of December, but grapes and small fruits are his special hobby. Year before last, from less than an acre, then in bearing, which he tended himself, he sold nearly eighteen hundred dollars worth of grapes. But if he had waited a year on forty different crops, and now and then ran into town with a dozen of eggs, or a peck of turnips, a bushel of peas, or a peck of green corn, or a string of onions, or a box of butter, or a few other lots of garden produce, it would be supposed that he could have realized seventeen or eighteen hundred dollars, from less than an acre of vineyard.

It is only a few months since we visited that vineyard in company with two or three gentlemen, and on leaving one of them remarked, "There, I'd rather own that two acres of vineyard, than the best farm in Worcester County."

And he was right. Why? Because with less cost of machinery and management, less wear and tear, it would pay a far larger percentage of income than the best farm in Worcester County, and hence as an investment, as a matter of dollars and cents it was more desirable.

Again, we know a man in the Connecticut Valley, who bought his place, built a large tobacco shed and made some other improvements, and paid for the whole by the single crop of tobacco the first year. But he gave his mind and attention to it and didn't try to cultivate much corn or many potatoes.

And again: We know a man in Duxbury, who began to reclaim one of the hardest looking bush swamps that we ever saw, and set out cranberries, now four or five years

CRUELTY TO ANIMALS.



Editor Massachusetts Poughman:

I thank you for the interest you take in the prevention of cruelty to animals and your kind offer to open the columns of the Poughman freely to communications on this subject. Your subscribers are to a large extent the owners of animals, and there is no class in the community so largely interested in this subject as the Party. Party ignorance, and partly through brutality and want of suitable laws, great cruelty has been done to animals in and about this."

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The following are the names of those who have thus far agreed to join or become members of the Society:

Mr. T. Angell, Jr.

Mr. A. B. Atkinson.

Mr. T. C. Atkinson.

Mr. W. C. Atkinson.

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